

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Contact our Office:
 Historic Courthouse
 400 Washington Avenue
 Towson, MD 21204
 (410) 887-3384

council5@baltimorecountymd.gov



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **NEW BUILDING STANDARDS EMPHASIZE CONNECTIVITY, GREEN SPACE IN DOWNTOWN TOWSON**

On August 2nd, the Baltimore County Council passed legislation I sponsored to create a distinct Downtown Towson zoning district. The legislation is the result of 20 months of discussion among key Towson stakeholders.



Last year, [the Council passed a bill that required new development to be evaluated by the Baltimore County Design Review Panel](#), which includes architects and engineers. I wanted the community to also have an opportunity to comment on buildings that may stand for several decades. The new legislation codifies

standards that will be considered by the Design Review Panel.

For example, new construction should be aesthetically pleasing. There should be pedestrian connections, with mandatory bike parking. Development should reflect high standards of environmental sustainability, and reduce light pollution. At the same time, there has been broad consensus that Downtown Towson's parking requirements are archaic and obsolete. We have ample space in our garages, and many environmentalists have argued that developments should have a smaller footprint of impervious material. All these concepts are included in the new legislation.

I would like to thank the Baltimore County Planning Board and the Planning Department for providing the draft that formed the backbone of the legislation. I would also like to thank key stakeholder groups—including the Green Towson Alliance and the Greater Towson Committee—that came together to shape this bill.

COUNTY CONSIDERS CHANGES TO TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

At the request of the Baltimore County Council, traffic engineers have proposed changes to the county's traffic calming policy, which regulates where speed bumps and other projects can be placed. See the changes [here](#). Baltimore County has installed traffic calming measures in dozens of neighborhoods, but the current policy limits changes on certain corridors and in rural communities such as Kingsville.

AFTER 1,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK, ANGEL PARK BECOMES A REALITY

Thanks to thousands of volunteers who worked over a 10-day period, Angel Park is now a reality! Almost all construction is done on Baltimore County's first volunteer-driven, all-access playground, which is located south of the Perry Hall library. The amphitheater will be built in August. Please remember that the area is not yet open to use, as it still must be inspected for safety. Learn more about the Angel Park story [here](#).



JERUSALEM MILL TO HOST FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

The Friends of Jerusalem Mill will host its First Responder Day on Saturday, August 6th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a rain date of Saturday, August 20th. [Jerusalem Mill is a historic village](#) off Jerusalem Road near the Harford County line.



COUNCILMAN MARKS ANNOUNCES REZONING RECOMMENDATIONS

On August 30th, the Baltimore County Council will vote on the zoning maps that determine how the county can develop over the next four years. [There are 161 rezoning issues in the Fifth District this year.](#)

Councilman Marks initiated many of the issues to lighten school overcrowding and preserve green space. Here are recent announcements made by Councilman Marks.

- Designating eight acres of undeveloped property in the Seven Courts Drive corridor as Neighborhood Commons, blocking all development (Issues 5-068, 5-069, 5-070, and 5-071).
- Designating about three acres between Slater Avenue and Mispillion Road as Neighborhood Commons (Issue 5-108).
- Designating 113 acres east of White Marsh Boulevard near Dunfield and Belmont as Neighborhood Commons, blocking all development (Issue 5-133).
- Designating nine acres west of Snyder Lane as Neighborhood Commons (Issue 5-079).
- In an area west of Belair Road in Perry Hall, designating 254 acres as Neighborhood Commons; limiting 125 acres to one house per acre, including the strip of land behind Minte Drive near McDonalds; and designating seven acres near Gunpowder Falls State Park as restricted zoning found in rural parts of the county. A small triangle of land would be changed to commercial zoning to accommodate the new Perry Hall McDonalds (Issue 5-155).
- Designating 26 acres of wooded property north of the Honeygo Village Center as Neighborhood Commons, blocking all development (Issue 5-104).

The most recent news about rezoning can be found [here](#), at the Facebook page Councilman Marks created to update the public.